

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT

Second 10-Year Maintenance Plans for the National Ambient Air Quality
Standards
Frequently Asked Questions
December 2014

1. What is a second 10-year maintenance plan?

When a state submits a request to EPA to redesignate a nonattainment area to attainment, the Clean Air Act (CAA) section 175A(a) requires that the state (or states, if the area is a multi-state area) submit to the EPA a maintenance plan ensuring the area can maintain the air quality standard for which the area is to be redesignated for at least 10 years following the effective date of redesignation.¹ CAA section 175A(b) requires the state to submit a revision to the first 10-year maintenance plan within 8 years of the effective date of redesignation to address maintenance for years 11-20 after the effective date of redesignation.

2. How does EPA determine when a 20-year maintenance period ends?

The maintenance period ends 20 years after the effective date of EPA's redesignation of the area to attainment or potentially at a later date if approved by EPA.

3. Does the second 10-year maintenance plan cease to be effective when an area reaches the end of its 20-year maintenance period?

No. The terms of the maintenance plan remain in effect and all measures and requirements contained in the plan must be complied with until the state submits, and EPA approves, a revision to the state plan consistent with the anti-backsliding requirements of CAA section 110(l) and CAA section 193, if applicable. Furthermore, the maintenance requirement in CAA section 110(a)(1) remains in place for all areas, including attainment areas.

4. What requirements apply if a state seeks to revise its second 10-yr maintenance plan after the end of the 20-year maintenance?

If a state seeks to revise their second 10-year maintenance plans after the end of the 20-year maintenance period, they must submit a plan revision consistent with the anti-backsliding provisions of CAA section 110(l) and CAA section 193, as applicable. The anti-backsliding provisions ensure that plan revisions do not interfere with any requirement necessary to maintain compliance with the NAAQS.

5. If EPA revokes a NAAQS for which an area has been redesignated to attainment, does the state need to submit a second maintenance plan?

EPA will determine through rulemaking whether a second maintenance plan is necessary after revocation of a NAAQS. This determination will be explained in the notice revoking the NAAQS at issue.

¹ See specific NAAQS implementation rules for applicable rules on a revoked standard. [Carbon Monoxide](#), [76 FR 54294, Aug 31, 2011]; [Lead](#), [73 FR 66964, Nov 12, 2008]; [Nitrogen Dioxide](#), [75 FR 6474, Feb 9, 2010] [61 FR 52852, Oct 8, 1996]; [Sulfur Dioxide](#) [75 FR 35520, Jun 22, 2010] [38 FR 25678, Sept 14, 1973].

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6. Do transportation and general conformity continue to apply beyond the expiration date of the second maintenance plan?

No, unless the applicable SIP specifies that transportation or general conformity applies for a longer period of time. For specific guidance about transportation conformity, please refer to EPA's Office of Transportation and Air Quality guidance, "Transportation Conformity Guidance for Areas Reaching the End of the Maintenance Period" at <http://www.epa.gov/otaq/stateresources/transconf/policy.htm>.